

Remarks

The Office Action mailed August 18, 2005, and made final, has been carefully reviewed and the foregoing amendment has been made in consequence thereof.

Claims 1-24 are pending in the present application, of which claims 21-24 are newly added. A fee calculation sheet for the newly added claims along with authorization to charge a deposit account in the amount of the calculated fee are submitted herewith. It is respectfully submitted that the pending claims define allowable subject matter.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of Claims 1-4, 6-10, 12, 14 and 15 under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Barker et al. (USP 6,866,541) ("Barker").

Barker describes a patch panel (100) having a central section (110) receiving cable connectors within openings (120). The central section is formed from two panel sections angled outwardly in a V-shape, and a substantially flat separator portion (140) separating the two panel sections.

Claim 1 recites a patch panel system including "a frame...a patch panel attachable to said frame, said patch panel including a first connectivity interface having multiple sections extending along a substantially arcuate path and joined to form an N-sided portion of a polygon where N is greater than two...connector ports provided on at least two of said multiple sections of said first connectivity interface."

Barker does not describe nor suggest a patch panel system as recited in claim 1. More specifically, Barker does not describe nor suggest a patch panel including a first connectivity interface having multiple sections extending along a substantially arcuate path and joined to form an N-sided portion of a polygon where N is greater than two, and connector ports provided on at least two of the multiple sections of the first connectivity interface. Rather, Barker describes a patch panel having a central section including two panel sections angled outwardly in a V-shape, and a substantially flat separator portion separating the two panel sections. Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, claim 1 is submitted to be patentable over Barker.

Claims 2-4 and 6-10 depend from independent claim 1. When the recitations of claims 2-4 and 6-10 are considered in combination with the recitations of claim 1, Applicants submit that dependent claims 2-4 and 6-10 likewise are patentable over Barker.

Claim 12 recites a patch panel including “a body...a first connectivity interface provided on said body, said first connectivity interface having multiple sections extending along a substantially arcuate path and joined to form an N-sided portion of a polygon where N is greater than two...connector ports provided on at least two of said multiple sections of said first connectivity interface.”

Barker does not describe nor suggest a patch panel as recited in claim 1. More specifically, Barker does not describe nor suggest a first connectivity interface having multiple sections extending along a substantially arcuate path and joined to form an N-sided portion of a polygon where N is greater than two, and connector ports provided on at least two of the multiple sections of the first connectivity interface. Rather, Barker describes a patch panel having a central section including two panel sections angled outwardly in a V-shape, and a substantially flat separator portion separating the two panel sections. Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, claim 12 is submitted to be patentable over Barker.

Claims 14 and 15 depend from independent claim 12. When the recitations of claims 14 and 15 are considered in combination with the recitations of claim 12, Applicants submit that dependent claims 14 and 15 likewise are patentable over Barker.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 9, 10, 12, 15, 17, 18 and 19 under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Belaidi et al. (USP 6,866,541) (“Belaidi”).

Belaidi describes an interface plate (100) having a curved outer surface (102) and a plurality of interface connectors (104). Each of the interface connectors are adapted to receive a cable (218) at an angle relative to a normal line of the curved outer surface.

Claim 1 recites a patch panel system including “a frame...a patch panel attachable to said frame, said patch panel including a first connectivity interface having multiple sections

extending along a substantially arcuate path and joined to form an N-sided portion of a polygon where N is greater than two...connector ports provided on at least two of said multiple sections of said first connectivity interface.”

Belaidi does not describe nor suggest a patch panel system as recited in claim 1. More specifically, Belaidi does not describe nor suggest a patch panel including a first connectivity interface having multiple sections extending along a substantially arcuate path and joined to form an N-sided portion of a polygon where N is greater than two, and connector ports provided on at least two of the multiple sections of the first connectivity interface. Rather, Belaidi describes an interface plate having a curved outer surface and a plurality of interface connectors adapted to receive a cable at an angle relative to a normal line of the curved outer surface. Notably, the Belaidi interface plate does not include multiple sections forming an N-sided portion of a polygon. Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, claim 1 is submitted to be patentable over Belaidi.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 9 and 10 depend from independent claim 1. When the recitations of claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 9 and 10 are considered in combination with the recitations of claim 1, Applicants submit that dependent claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 9 and 10 likewise are patentable over Belaidi.

Claim 12 recites a patch panel including “a body...a first connectivity interface provided on said body, said first connectivity interface having multiple sections extending along a substantially arcuate path and joined to form an N-sided portion of a polygon where N is greater than two...connector ports provided on at least two of said multiple sections of said first connectivity interface.”

Belaidi does not describe nor suggest a patch panel as recited in claim 1. More specifically, Belaidi does not describe nor suggest a first connectivity interface having multiple sections extending along a substantially arcuate path and joined to form an N-sided portion of a polygon where N is greater than two, and connector ports provided on at least two of the multiple sections of the first connectivity interface. Rather, Belaidi describes an interface plate having a curved outer surface and a plurality of interface connectors adapted to receive a cable at an angle

relative to a normal line of the curved outer surface. Notably, the Belaidi interface plate does not include multiple sections forming an N-sided portion of a polygon. Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, claim 12 is submitted to be patentable over Belaidi.

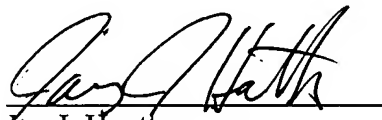
Claims 15, 17, 18 and 19 depend from independent claim 12. When the recitations of claims 15, 17, 18 and 19 are considered in combination with the recitations of claim 12, Applicants submit that dependent claims 15, 17, 18 and 19 likewise are patentable over Belaidi.

With respect to newly added claims 21 and 23, Applicants respectfully submit that none of the cited art describes connector ports provided on at least three of the multiple sections of the first connectivity interface. Therefore, Applicants submit that claims 21 and 23 are patentable over the cited art.

With respect to newly added claims 22 and 24, Applicants respectfully submit that none of the cited art describes connector ports provided on immediately adjacent sections of the multiple sections of the first connectivity interface. Therefore, Applicants submit that claims 22 and 24 are patentable over the cited art.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the prior art fails to teach or suggest the claimed invention. Should anything remain in order to place the present application in condition for allowance, the examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully Submitted,



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